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09/834,701	04/12/2001	Tom Ren	REN,01B	5019

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4035 Oakridge Street
Houston, TX 77009

EXAMINER

TRUONG, CAM Y T

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2172

DATE MAILED: 09/30/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

29

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/834,701

Applicant(s)

REN ET AL.

Examiner

Cam-Y T Truong

Art Unit

2172

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 July 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 and 17-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 and 17-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant has canceled claims 13-16, amended claim 17 in the amendment filed on 7/10/03. Claims 1-12 and 17-23 are pending in this Office Action.

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-12 and 17-23 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Applicant discussed that Reilly and Robertson do not teach the claimed limitation "creating an access account" based on records from an existing database. However, Robertson teaches that the database 340 contains contact information entered by registered users. Fig.6 outlines the data structure of the relational database 340 in the preferred embodiment, in which seven tables 350 are employed to enable most of the functionality of the present invention: Customer table 440; Friend table 460; Group Table 400; Affinity Table 420; Address Table 480; Phone Table 500; and Travel Event Table 520. The Customer table 440 contains one record for each unique user. The field in this table is Customer ID 440-2. All information stored in the various database tables relating to a particular member is linked together by a unique number in this field. Other important fields in this table include information used by users to login to the system such as username 440-6 and password 440-8. This information shows that the system creates each user an access account (fig. 6, col. 4, lines 60-67; col. 5, lines 1-12; col. 10, lines 1-5).

Applicant discussed that Reilly and Robertson do not teach the claimed limitation "transmitting the access account to the individuals". However, Robertson teaches the database 340 that is stored in a server contains contact information entered by

registered users. Fig.6 outlines the data structure of the relational database 340 in the preferred embodiment, in which seven tables 350 are employed to enable most of the functionality of the present invention: Customer table 440; Friend table 460; Group Table 400; Affinity Table 420; Address Table 480; Phone Table 500; and Travel Event Table 520. The Customer table 440 contains one record for each unique user. The field in this table is Customer ID 440-2. All information stored in the various database tables relating to a particular member is linked together by a unique number in this field. Other important fields in this table include information used by users to login to the system such as username 440-6 and password 440-8. This information shows that the system creates each user an access account and transmits passwords to users for login to the system (fig. 6, col. 4, lines 60-67; col. 5, lines 1-12; col. 10, lines 1-5).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-7, 9, 11 and 12 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reilly (USP 6427164) in view of Robertson (USP 6269369).

As to claim 1, Reilly teaches the claimed limitations

“receiving records of individuals from an existing database” as electronic messages are sent from the sending server to a receiving server associated with the recipient of the message (col. 1, lines 60-67);

“populating a web-based database with the individual records” as sending electronic mail messages in database (col. 2, lines 23-25; col. 4, lines 65-67).

Reilly fails to teach the claimed limitations “creating an access account.....by use of the access account”. However, Robertson teaches the claimed limitations: “creating an access account for each individual record” as the database 340 contains contact information entered by registered users. Fig.6 outlines the data structure of the relational database 340 in the preferred embodiment, in which seven tables 350 are employed to enable most of the functionality of the present invention: Customer table 440; Friend table 460; Group Table 400; Affinity Table 420; Address Table 480; Phone Table 500; and Travel Event Table 520. The Customer table 440 contains on record for each unique user. The field in this table is Customer ID 440-2. All information stored in the various database tables relating to a particular member is linked together by a unique number in this field. Other important fields in this table include information used by users to login to the system such as username 440-6 and password 440-8. This information shows that the system creates each user an access account (fig. 6, col. 4, lines 60-67; col. 5, lines 1-12; col. 10, lines 1-5);

“ transmitting the access account to the individuals” as the database 340 stored in a server contains contact information entered by registered users. Fig.6 outlines the data structure of the relational database 340 in the preferred embodiment, in which seven tables 350 are employed to enable most of the functionality of the present invention: Customer table 440; Friend table 460; Group Table 400; Affinity Table 420; Address Table 480; Phone Table 500; and Travel Event Table 520. The Customer

table 440 contains on record for each unique user. The field in this table is Customer ID 440-2. All information stored in the various database tables relating to a particular member is linked together by a unique number in this field. Other important fields in this table include information used by users to login to the system such as username 440-6 and password 440-8. This information shows that the system creates each user an access account and transmits passwords to users for logon the system (fig. 6, col. 4, lines 60-67; col. 5, lines 1-12; col. 10, lines 1-5);

“enabling remote maintenance of the individual records by use of the access account” as whenever a second user changes any information in any data field of his data record, the information in that field is automatically updated in the information database of each first user whom he has given permission to view the information in that data field (col. 3, lines 15-20).

It would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply Robertson’s teaching of storing personal information for users in database server, providing passwords to users for logon the system and modifying any information in any data field of user data record to allow other users viewing the user’s record to Reilly’s system in order to prevent a user to update a personal account without permission.

As to claim 2, Reilly teaches the claimed limitation “the records are received by transfer across an electronic link” as sending e-mail server then automatically resends the e-mail message destined for user2 to the new address (col. 8, lines 30-40).

As to claim 3, Reilly teaches the claimed limitation "wherein the electronic link is electronic mail" as sending e-mail server then automatically resends the e-mail message destined for user2 to the new address (col. 8, lines 30-40).

As to claim 4, Reilly teaches the claimed limitation " electronic link is selected from satellite systems, cable systems, direct modem connections, network connections, VPN connections, or Intranet connections" as sending e-mail server then automatically resends the e-mail message destined for user2 to the new address via network connection(col. 8, lines 30-40; figs 1&2).

As to claim 5, Reilly teaches the claimed limitation " the populating of the web-based database with the individual records further comprises automatically mapping the records" as the electronic mail message is sent from the sending server to a receiving server associated with the receipt of the message. In order to accept the electronic mail content from the sending server, the receiving server must generally be able to validate that there is indeed a user name corresponding exactly with the electronic mail receipt's name. The receiving server thus, checks its database of electronic mail users and validates the electronic mail recipient's name (col. 2, lines 25-40; col. 3, lines 20-40).

As to claim 6, Reilly teaches the claimed limitation “ wherein the populating of the web-based database with the individual records further comprises manually mapping the records” as the electronic mail message is sent from the sending server to a receiving server associated with the receipt of the message. In order to accept the electronic mail content from the sending server, the receiving server must generally be able to validate that there is indeed a user name corresponding exactly with the electronic mail receipt’s name. The receiving server thus, checks its database of electronic mail users and validates the electronic mail recipient’s name (col. 2, lines 25-40; col. 3, lines 20-40).

As to claim 7, Reilly fails to teach the claimed limitation “wherein the access accounts are generated automatically”. However, Robertson teaches whenever a second user changes any information in any data field of his data record, the information in that field is automatically updated in the information database of each first user whom he has given permission to view the information in that data field (col. 3, lines 15-20).

It would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply Robertson’s teaching of whenever a second user changes any information in any data field of his data record, the information in that field is automatically updated in the information database of each first user whom he has given permission to view the information in that data field to Reilly’s system in order to prevent a user to update a personal account without permission.

As to claim 9, Reilly fails to teach the claimed limitation "wherein the temporary access accounts are transmitted to the individuals by email". However, Robertson teaches the database 340 that is stored in a server contains contact information entered by registered users. Fig.6 outlines the data structure of the relational database 340 in the preferred embodiment, in which seven tables 350 are employed to enable most of the functionality of the present invention: Customer table 440; Friend table 460; Group Table 400; Affinity Table 420; Address Table 480; Phone Table 500; and Travel Event Table 520. The Customer table 440 contains one record for each unique user. The field in this table is Customer ID 440-2. All information stored in the various database tables relating to a particular member is linked together by a unique number in this field. Other important fields in this table include information used by users to login to the system such as username 440-6 and password 440-8. This information shows that the system creates each user an access account and transmits passwords to users for login the system (fig. 6, col. 4, lines 60-67; col. 5, lines 1-12; col. 10, lines 1-5).

It would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply Robertson's teaching of storing personal information for users in database server, providing passwords to users for login the system and modifying any information in any data field of user data record to allow other users viewing the user's record to Reilly's system in order to prevent a user to update a personal account without permission.

As to claim 11, Reilly fails to teach the claimed limitation "wherein the remote maintenance occurs across the Internet." However, Robertson teaches whenever a second user changes any information in any data field of his data record, the information in that field is automatically updated in the information database of each first user whom he has given permission to view the information in that data field (col. 3, lines 15-20).

It would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply Robertson's teaching of whenever a second user changes any information in any data field of his data record, the information in that field is automatically updated in the information database of each first user whom he has given permission to view the information in that data field to Reilly's system in order to prevent a user to update a personal account without permission.

As to claim 12, Reilly fails to teach the claimed limitation "wherein the remote maintenance comprises altering the individual records". However, Robertson teaches whenever a second user changes any information in any data field of his data record, the information in that field is automatically updated in the information database of each first user whom he has given permission to view the information in that data field (col. 3, lines 15-20).

It would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply Robertson's teaching of whenever a second user changes any information in any data field of his data record, the information in that field is

automatically updated in the information database of each first user whom he has given permission to view the information in that data field to Reilly's system in order to prevent a user to update a personal account without permission.

4. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reilly in view of Robertson and further in view of Trent et al (USP 5961620).

As to claim 8, Reilly discloses the claimed limitation subject matter in claim 1, except the claimed limitation "wherein the temporary access accounts are transmitted to the individuals by fax". However, Trent teaches that address book application program maintains an address book information file, which contains a default list of default client communication application programs. The default list specifies a default client communication application program for each of a predetermined set of communication types. For example, predetermined communication types may include fax, video, voice, or e-mail communication type (col. 6, lines 40-50).

It would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply Trent's teaching of communication types may include fax, video, voice or email into Reilly and Robertson's system in order to allow a system or a user to have more choices in communication with other users or another system.

5. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reilly in view of Robertson and further in view of Trent and Despres et al (USP 6434379).

As to claim 10, Reilly discloses the claimed limitation subject matter in claim 1, except the claimed limitation "the temporary access accounts are transmitted by a media selected from voice mail, physical address, or pager". However, Trent teaches that address book application program maintains an address book information file, which contains a default list of default client communication application programs. The default list specifies a default client communication application program for each of a predetermined set of communication types. For example, predetermined communication types may include fax, video, voice, or e-mail communication type (col. 6, lines 40-50). Also, Despres teaches the network sending a voice message to the terminal (col. 3, lines 1-5). It would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply Trent's teaching of communication types may include fax, video, voice or email and Despres's teaching of the network sending a voice message to the terminal into Reilly and Robertson's system in order to allow a system or a user to have more choices in communication with other users or another system.

6. Claims 17-19 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee et al (USP 6108691) in view of Johnson et al (or hereinafter "Johnson") (USP 5664109).

As to claim 17, Lee teaches the claimed limitations:

"an account generator provided for creating access numbers for the data

Art Unit: 2172

records" as the system generates a password for a registered user. This password is stored in subscriber database 51. Monitor 46 can also generate requests to log in by using names with randomly generated passwords to ensure that a security application in the subscriber database is functioning properly. This information shows that the system has included an account generator to create passwords for registered users.

Passwords are presented as access numbers (col.5, lines 1-20; col. 9, lines1-10);

"a broadcast system provided for distributing the access numbers to the customer" as when processing system 32 receives the user-entered email address, it generates a password and email that password to the user with the entered email address. Monitor 46 can also generate requests to log in by using names with randomly generated passwords to ensure that a security application in the subscriber database is functioning properly. The above information shows that the system has included a broadcast system to distribute passwords to registered users (col. 5, lines 5-10; col. 9, lines 1-10);

"an update system provided to enable customer access to the data records by use of the access numbers" the system generates a password for a registered user. Once the user has password, that user can then log into the system. When a user first registers and edits his or her main listing, the system requests that user identify himself or herself against an entry in the main database. The user is allowed to move a cursor through the names to select his or her entry. The above information shows that the user uses the password to access his or her data record (col. 5, lines 1-10; col. 8, lines 43-60).

Lee does not clearly teach the claimed limitation “a database automatically populated with existing customer data records”. However, Johnson teaches the patient demographic database is automatically populated using information extracted from certain documents (col. 3, lines 19-20).

It would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply Johnson’s teaching of the patient demographic database is automatically populated using information extracted from certain documents to Lee’s system in order to eliminate user’s interaction and to eliminate steps of processing for populating data in a database.

As to claim 18, Lee teaches the claimed limitation “wherein the database is a web-based database” as database for city and state (fig.4, col. 5, lines 1-10).

As to claim 19, Lee teaches the claimed limitation “wherein the customer data records include marketing profiles” as providing multiple database records of similar promotional information with different vendors (col. 4, lines 45-55; col. 5, lines 25-45).

As to claim 21, Lee teaches the claimed limitation “wherein the broadcast system distributes the access numbers by email” as sending email to that potential recipient (col. 7, lines 20-21; col. 5, lines 1-10).

7. Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee in view of Johnson and further in view of Trent .

As to claim 20, Lee and Johnson discloses the claimed limitation subject matter in claim 17, except the claimed limitation "wherein the broadcast system distributes the access numbers by facsimile". However, Trent teaches that address book application program maintains an address book information file, which contains a default list of default client communication application programs. The default list specifies a default client communication application program for each of a predetermined set of communication types. For example, predetermined communication types may include fax, video, voice, or e-mail communication type (col. 6, lines 40-50).

It would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply Trent's teaching of communication types may include fax, video, voice or email into Lee and Johnson's system in order to allow a system or a user to have more choices in communication with other users or another system.

8. Claims 22 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee in view of Johnson and further in view of Trent and Despres.

As to claim 22, Lee and Johnson discloses the claimed limitation subject matter in claim 17, except the claimed limitation "wherein the broadcast, mail, or by pager". However, Trent teaches that address book application program maintains an address book information file, which contains a default list of default client communication application programs. The default list specifies a default client communication

Art Unit: 2172

application program for each of a predetermined set of communication types. For example, predetermined communication types may include fax, video, voice, or e-mail communication type (col. 6, lines 40-50). Also, Despres teaches the network sending a voice message to the terminal (col. 3, lines 1-5). It would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply Trent's teaching of communication types may include fax, video, voice or email and Despres's teaching of the network sending a voice message to the terminal into Lee's system in order to allow a system or a user to have more choices in communication with other users or another system.

As to claim 23, Lee discloses the claimed limitation subject matter in claim 17, except the claimed limitation "wherein the broadcast system distributes the access numbers by a combination of fax, email, and voice mail". However, Trent teaches that address book application program maintains an address book information file, which contains a default list of default client communication application programs. The default list specifies a default client communication application program for each of a predetermined set of communication types. For example, predetermined communication types may include fax, video, voice, or e-mail communication type (col. 6, lines 40-50). Also, Despres teaches the network sending a voice message to the terminal (col. 3, lines 1-5). It would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply Trent's teaching of communication types may include fax, video, voice or email and Despres's teaching of the network

sending a voice message to the terminal into Lee and Johnson's system in order to allow a system or a user to have more choices in communication with other users or another system.

Conclusion

9. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Contact Information

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cam-Y Truong whose telephone number is (703-605-1169). The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri from 8:00AM to 4:00PM.


Art Unit: 2172

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Vu, can be reached on (703-305-4393). The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703-764-7646).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703-305-3900).

Cam-Y Truong

9/10/03


SHAHID ALAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER